

Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup

MEETING MINUTES

(9-14-15)

Attendance/Roll Call:

Present
Kevin Bloom
Frank Durantaye
Debra Korb
Lori Lilly
Ken McNaughton
Dave Myers
Ron Peters
Bruno Reich
Debbie Slack Katz
Jim Caldwell
Mark Deluca
Bob Frances
Raj Kudchadkar
Ryan Miller
Gary Smith
Not present
Jason McMillan

Approval of Minutes - July 13th meeting minutes were approved. Simultaneously, it was discussed that the Committee would work on two working group issues per meeting. Ken motioned, Ron seconded. Changes were made to the calendar for the remainder of the year; following are the set meeting dates:

October 19th
October 26th (added)
November 16th
November 23rd (added)
December 14th (changed from 12/21)

Reinforce Workgroup Mission and Set Priorities – Raj and Debbie reviewed the Executive Order and they differentiated those from the current mitigation work identified in DPW’s Phase I efforts. The workgroup is tasked with augmenting and not directing Phase I efforts. Executive Order specifically tasks the Workgroup with:

- Education and Outreach
- Identifying Additional Funding Sources – need someone to lead the effort – existing position, new position, CE should assign a lead – S & S already has funding sources identified

- Examining FEMA Insurance Rate
- Recommend and Prioritize New/Future Mitigation Measures (e.g. approach for working on private property upstream)

The group agreed that the 4th bullet was the top priority for action.

It was discussed that the 2nd bullet will require someone to lead the effort. The S & S already has funding sources identified but the County has not followed up. **This should be a recommendation in the report.**

Mark DeLuca reviewed Phase I projects (a list was provided) – these have already been identified; inspections of the stream have been started; the group can provide input onto list, but it would be more appropriate at a different time

A priority for Phase II is the mechanisms for working on private property and funding. The group discussed that potentially three options could be brought to each landowner and they would choose. Options could include easements, fee simple purchase, do nothing, others.

The committee discussed that it would be useful to know how other communities do work on private property; this could be a research element. Kevin said that we need a timeline for implementation. Lori mentioned the Non-profit Partnership Program that already provides a mechanism for working on private property. Frank argued that downstream properties are damaged by upstream flows and should not have to pay for fixes related to what is happening to the commons. Raj clarified that with a grant program, the money is routed through a third party vs CIP where the County has money and does work.

The group discussed FEMA, grants to help floodproof homes, how FEMA grants have 25% match requirement, hazard mitigation funds and the County's inability to access these due to population size and damage assessment. Ryan suggested the Committee meet with MEMA instead – someone there is familiar with Ellicott City and may be better. The group discussed utilizing FEMA best practices to do floodproofing and that we should **re-create the FEMA process with a local model and that perhaps FEMA could advise for floodproofing**. Frank said that any actions should be distributed between both the historic district and West End.

The group discussed Phase I larger maintenance projects. Mark clarified this for the group as bigger construction work requiring heavy machinery. Do we need a permit to remove boulders? **We should check with the State on requirements as well as ability to get general permit.**

Ken pointed out that debris is originating from other streams besides Hudson. Mark iterated that our focus was the Hudson Branch.

The group determined that our meeting on 10/19 was to focus on how to work on private property. Remaining meeting agendas will be determined based on the prior meeting and group's consensus.

Dave suggested that for the next meeting, we each envision our ideal report and prepare to share with the group 5-10 points that he/she would like to see in report to the County Executive. **All agreed.**

Format and Objective of First Deliverable - The Workgroup has a report due to the County Executive and County Council on December 1, 2015. Framework for discussion:

- Executive Summary
- Outline of Groups Work
- Section on Each Requirement (see above) w/Overview and Bulleted Recommendations
 - * *Advocate for Continued Funding of Phase I Mitigation Projects*

Results of the next meeting will further inform our final report.

New Business:

The group briefly discussed the role of new development on our efforts.

Bruno shared a project that the EC Rotary Club is working on at the intersection of Old Columbia Pike and Main St.

It was agreed that Lori is “very good” at writing and turning around meeting minutes.